

# California Watershed Assessment Manual

A Project of the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection  
and the University of California

To assist watershed groups, local agencies, private landowners, and watershed specialists in assessing watershed condition, the State of California is developing the California Watershed Assessment Manual (C-WAM). The Manual will be a toolbox of approaches and protocols appropriate for analyzing a variety of natural resource issues in creek and river basins throughout the state. A team of UC and CDF-FRAP researchers and watershed specialists has been assembled to develop the Manual. Initially, the team will focus on the North Coast, Central Coast, and Central Valley (including the west-side Sierra Nevada), as defined by the Regional Water Quality Control Board boundaries. Other areas of California will be addressed in the next phase of the project, depending upon the availability of additional funds.

In addition to consulting with the stakeholders described above, one of the team's first steps is to assemble a library of watershed assessment approaches from a wide range of sources (e.g., the Oregon Watershed Assessment Manual, the Washington DNR manual, California's North Coast Watershed Assessment Program (NCWAP), scientific literature, and other states). This resource base is being gleaned for the tools best suited to address the huge variety of social and environmental circumstances facing watershed groups and analysts in California. We will provide guidance on how watershed groups can interface their assessment work with analyses completed by other programs, such as NCWAP and the U.S. Forest Service.

The resulting product will be advisory and will not prescribe how assessments must be done. The information will be presented as a loose-leaf printed manual, a CD, and as a website of resources. The product will be available in draft form in late 2003, at which point we will seek user feedback on the draft.

A critical part of the development process is collecting ideas and advice from watershed groups, watershed coordinators and specialists, local agencies and governments, private landowners, academic researchers, and state and federal agencies. It is an opportunity for the team to collect the wisdom from the diverse interests and experts in the larger watershed community. We don't claim to know everything, so your intellectual involvement is critical.

## **Steering Committee**

Ken Coulter (State Water Resources Control Board), Steve Greco (University of California, Davis), Dennis Heiman (Central Valley RWQCB), Renée Hoyos (Resources Agency), Stefan Lorenzato (Department of Water Resources), Sungnome Madrone/Ruth Blyther (alternate; North Coast non-profits), Liza Prunuske (For Sake of the Salmon), Ann Riley (San Francisco RWCQB), and Brian Staab (United States Forest Service).

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## C-WAM FEEDBACK FORM

### OPTIONAL

Name:

Representing:

Address:

Phone:

E-Mail:

- 1) My involvement with California Watershed(s): (where, who, when?)
- 2) Have you been involved with a Watershed Assessment (WA)? (which one?)
- 3) Tools that might be helpful for conducting a watershed assessment:
- 4) Are there any particular Manuals relevant to WA that you have found helpful?
- 5) Examples of good watershed assessments (in California or elsewhere): [e.g., Title / Author(s) / Date]
- 6) What I think a good watershed assessment should include:  
In General:  
  
Specific to my watershed(s):
- 7) Problems I've encountered with conducting a watershed assessment:
- 8) Other (feel free to attach more information):

Call me for an interview: Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

Please send your replies to Fraser Shilling at University of California, Davis (contact info on page 1)